GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PANCHAYATI RAJ
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1203
ANSWERED ON:09.02.2017
Training Facilities in PRIs
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Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has provided adequate funds for the development of infrastructure and training facilities in the village and town Panchayats in the country;
(b) if so, the details thereof and the list of projects pending for approval by the Union Government during last three years;
(c) whether the Government has introduced any special innovative training schemes/ programme for town and village Panchayats in the country;
(d) if so, the details thereof; and
(e) the details of the funds earmarked and allocated for such training programmes in the next three years, year-wise, State-wise?

Answer

(a) & (b) Providing infrastructural facilities for Panchayats and Capacity Building & Training (CB&T) to the stakeholders of Panchayats is primarily the responsibility of the concerned States Governments. However, assistance for infrastructural facilities like construction and repairs of Panchayat Ghars, CB&T of the stakeholders of Panchayats, and Institutional Infrastructure for training has been provided by Government of India under the erstwhile scheme of Rajiv Gandhi Panchayat Sashaktikaran Abhiyan (RGPSA). With effect from 2015-16, the financial support for construction and repair of Panchayat Ghars under RGPSA was discontinued and States were advised to pool the resources available under MGNREGS. However, the support towards CB&T and Institutional Infrastructure for training was continued under Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA). Funds to the tune of Rs. 675.17 crore, 1690.96 cr and 930.88 cr have been sanctioned towards construction and repair of Panchayat Bhawan, CB&T and Institutional Infrastructure for training under RGPSA/ RGSA. The scheme is demand driven and funds are released to States on the basis of Annual Plans submitted by them in consonance with scheme guidelines.

Besides, under the scheme of Backward Region Grant Funds (BRGF), which was applicable to 272 districts, financial assistance was provided to States for filling up critical gaps which also included construction of Panchayat Bhawans and also for CB&T under its Capacity Building (CB) component. Funds to the tune of Rs. 88.15 cr. had been released to States under CB component of the scheme.

The Government also provides financial support for research activities, training courses, seminars, workshops and conferences etc on the topics relating to Urban Local Self Governance.

(c) & (d) An innovative training programme (Gramodaya Hamara Sankalp) for Sarpanches and Panchayat Secretaries was organized from 30th November to 2nd December 2016 at New Delhi wherein, besides Sarpanches and GP Secretaries from 8 States viz. Bihar, Jharkhand, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh, technical experts and faculties of reputed academic institutions and officers from various Ministries participated. The thematic areas relating to Panchayat Governance were discussed through power point presentations and panel discussions, nukkad natak and experience sharing by some best performing panchayats. Besides, exposure visit for the participants were also organised. The program was successful and very well received.
(e) The budgetary allocation for RGSA for 2016-17 and 2017-18, which includes components of CB&T of stakeholders of Panchayats and innovative training programs, is Rs. 655 crore and Rs. 691.90 crore respectively. The budget allocation for research activities, training courses, seminars, workshops and conferences etc on the topics relating to Urban Local Self Governance for the year 2016-17& 2017-18 is Rs. 11.42 Cr and Rs.12.00 Cr respectively.